

TO THE
BARNARD CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report, 1899

I.

GENTLEMEN,

It gives me much pleasure to be able to report an improvement in the death-rate for the year 1899, thirteen deaths having only been registered from my portion of the district, making an annual rate of mortality of 12·94 per 1,000 of population as per census of 1891.

The infantile mortality was the same as during the preceding year, two deaths having been registered under one year of age.

The death-rate amongst persons over 65 years of age was very low as compared with past years, only two deaths having occurred above that age.

Diseases of the respiratory organs accounted for 4 deaths, or 3·98 per 1,000 of population. Two of these deaths were ascribed to pulmonary consumption.

Only one death was caused by infectious disease, namely, typhoid fever, and took place at East Shaws, Whorlton.

Twenty-four births were registered during the year.

II.

In considering the rate of general sickness in the district, I am sorry to say that it has been above the average during the greater part of the year, particularly in the first six months, and again during the month of December.

The district was also visited by an unusual amount of infectious disease, particularly the Langleydale sub-district, where I found it expedient to close the schools. This had to be done first in January, owing to an epidemic of measles, which lasted about six weeks, and again in June, when scarlet fever broke out in many farmhouses. Altogether, during the year, 9 cases of infectious disease were notified to me, namely:—

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	7 cases
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	1 case
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1 „
Total					9 cases

The single case of typhoid fever occurred, and proved fatal, as above stated, at East Shaws, Whorlton. It was not of local origin, but was contracted in Bishop Auckland.

III.

The sanitary condition of the district was satisfactory. Some new drains and other sanitary works were carried out in the village of Stainton. The village of Whorlton was also supplied with an improved system of sewerage.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED H. SEVIER, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

